1   variations will become apparent to those skilled in the art in light of the foregoing

2   description. Accordingly, it is intended that the present invention embrace all such

3   alternatives, modifications and variations as fall within the scope of the appended

4   claims.

5   What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method of providing a channel of television programming to a class of

2   subscribers, comprising:

3   receiving programming content from a first subscriber, the first subscriber

4   being one of the class of subscribers, the programming content being transmitted

5   electronically from the first subscriber via a first subscriber's set-top box; and

6   multicasting the programming content to the class of subscribers, the

7   multicasting being carried out by addressing a set-top box corresponding to each

8   subscriber belonging to the class of subscribers.

9

10   2.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the programming content is

11   received from the first subscriber by an upload to a service provider via a dial-up

12   narrowband telephone communication link.

13

14   3.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the programming content is

15   received from the first subscriber by an upload to a service provider via a wideband

16   telephone communication link.

17

18   4.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the programming content is

19   received from the first subscriber by an upload to a service provider via a cable

20   modem communication link.

21

1   5.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the multicasting comprises

2   multicasting the programming content over a leased digital television channel.

3

4   6.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the multicasting is carried out by:

5   encrypting the programming content using an encryption key;

6   providing the encryption key to the class of subscribers; and

7   broadcasting the encrypted programming content to the class of subscribers.

8

9   7.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the class of subscribers comprise

10   one of a family, affiliates of a corporate entity, and people with a common interest.

11

12   8.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the programming content is

13   received from the first subscriber by an upload to a service provider of content from

14   one of a still camera, a video camera, a video tape player, an audio tape player, a

15   CD players, a PVR and a scanner.

1   9.   A method of providing a channel of television programming to a class of

2   subscribers, wherein the class of subscribers comprise one of a family, affiliates

3   of a corporate entity, and people with a common interest, the method comprising

4   in combination:

5   receiving programming content from a first subscriber, the first subscriber

6   being one of the class of subscribers, the programming content being transmitted

7   electronically from the first subscriber via a first subscriber's set-top box;

8   wherein the programming content is received from the first subscriber by an

9   upload to a service provider via one of a dial-up narrowband telephone

10   communication link, a wideband telephone communication link and a cable

11   modem communication link;

12   and

13   multicasting the programming content over a leased digital television

14   channel to the class of subscribers, the multicasting being carried out by

15   addressing a set-top box corresponding to each subscriber belonging to the class

16   of subscribers by:

17   encrypting the programming content using an encryption key;

18   providing the encryption key to the class of subscribers; and

19   broadcasting the encrypted programming content to the class of

20   subscribers.

21

1   10.   A method of providing a channel of television programming to a class of

2   subscribers, comprising:

3   establishing the class of subscribers and leasing a television channel from

4   a service provider;

5   electronically transmitting programming content from a first subscriber to the

6   service provider, the first subscriber being one of the class of subscribers, the

7   programming content being transmitted from the first subscriber via the first

8   subscriber's set-top box;

9   scheduling playback of the programming content; and

10   multicasting the programming content over the leased television channel to

11   the class of subscribers.

12

13   11.   The method according to claim 10, wherein the multicasting is carried out

14   by addressing a set-top box corresponding to each subscriber belonging to the

15   class of subscribers for transmission of the content.

16

17   12.   The method according to claim 11, wherein the multicasting is carried out

18   by:

19   encrypting the programming content using an encryption key;

20   providing the encryption key to the class of subscribers; and

21   broadcasting the encrypted programming content to the class of subscribers.

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13.   The method according to claim 10, wherein the television channel comprises

2   a digital television channel.

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14.   The method according to claim 10, wherein the programming content is

5   received from the first subscriber by an upload to the service provider via one of a

6   dial-up narrowband telephone communication link, a wideband telephone

7   communication link and a cable modem communication link.

8

9

15.   The method according to claim 10, wherein the programming content is

10   received from the first subscriber by an upload to a service provider of content from

11   one of a still camera, a video camera, a video tape player, an audio tape player, a

12   CD players, a PVR and a scanner.

13

14

16.   The method according to claim 10, further comprising removing the

15   programming content by:

16   requesting a schedule arbiter to remove the content; and

17   the schedule arbiter removing the content.

18

19

17.   The method according to claim 10, wherein the scheduling is carried out by

20   a schedule arbiter.

21

1   18.   A method of providing a channel of television programming to a class of

2   subscribers, comprising:

3   establishing the class of subscribers and leasing a digital television channel

4   from a service provider;

5   electronically transmitting programming content from a first subscriber to the

6   service provider, the first subscriber being one of the class of subscribers, the

7   programming content being transmitted from the first subscriber via the first

8   subscriber's set-top box;

9   wherein the programming content is received from the first subscriber by an

10   upload to the service provider via one of a dial-up narrowband telephone

11   communication link, a wideband telephone communication link and a cable

12   modem communication link;

13   wherein the programming content is received from the first subscriber by an

14   upload to a service provider of content from one of a still camera, a video camera,

15   a video tape player, an audio tape player, a CD players, a PVR and a scanner;

16   a schedule arbiter scheduling playback of the programming content;

17   multicasting the programming content over the leased television channel to

18   the class of subscribers by addressing a set-top box corresponding to each

19   subscriber belonging to the class of subscribers for transmission of the content by:

20   encrypting the programming content using an encryption key;

21   providing the encryption key to the class of subscribers;

1   broadcasting the encrypted programming content to the class of

2   subscribers;

3   removing the programming content from the schedule by:

4   requesting a schedule arbiter to remove the content; and

5   the schedule arbiter removing the content.

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